



KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

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ERIKA WEBB NAMED 2011 KENTUCKY TEACHER OF THE YEAR

(FRANKFORT, Ky.) – Erika Webb, an English teacher at East Jessamine High School in Jessamine County, has been named Kentucky Teacher of the Year.

The announcement was made today at a ceremony held at the Capitol Rotunda in Frankfort by [Ashland Inc.](#) and the Kentucky Department of Education. Secretary of the Education and Workforce Development Cabinet Joseph Meyer, Commissioner of Education Terry Holliday and Ashland Chairman and CEO Jim O'Brien were on hand to make the presentation.

Sarah Wilder, a 5th-grade social studies, reading, writing and language arts teacher at W.R. McNeill Elementary in the Bowling Green Independent school district, was named 2011 Elementary School Teacher of the Year, and Ashley Forrest, a middle school band direction teacher at Thomas Jefferson Middle School in the Jefferson County district, was named 2011 Middle School Teacher of the Year.

The three joined 21 other teachers from across the state honored with 2011 Ashland Inc. Teacher Achievement Awards. Wilder and Forrest received \$3,000 each and a customized, art-glass vase from Ashland Inc., while Webb received \$10,000 and a commemorative crystal-glass bowl. In addition, the Department of Education will provide a sabbatical or suitable alternative for Webb, who also will represent the state in the 2011 National Teacher of the Year competition. The remaining 21 winners each received \$500 cash awards. All 24 teachers received framed certificates and were further recognized at a luncheon following the ceremony.

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ERIKA WEBB

Erika Webb, who is currently in her 10th year of teaching, has taught English courses at East Jessamine High since the inception of her career. Webb earned bachelor's and master's degrees and completed coursework for English certification at the University of Kentucky. She also has been certified by the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards (NBPTS). Webb serves as a cooperating teacher for an Asbury University student teacher. Her most recent honors include 2010 Campbellsville University Excellence in Teaching, 2009 East Jessamine High School Teacher of the Year and Jessamine County Schools Excellence in Education for High School Teaching awards. Webb's professional affiliations include the National Board of Professional Teaching Standards, National Council for Teachers of English and the Kentucky Association of Professional Educators.

SARAH WILDER

Sarah Wilder is beginning her eighth year of teaching, with the last five of them in her present position, teaching 5th-grade students at W.R. McNeill Elementary School. She earned bachelor's and master's degrees at the University of Louisville and certification from NBPTS. Wilder serves as an advanced coach at the Teachers' Curriculum Institute and as a teacher representative on her school's school-based decision making (SBDM) council. She has presented at a Kentucky Council for Social Studies conference, and she facilitated an Integrating Technology into Social Studies professional-development program for the district. Wilder also served as team leader for a Teaching American History Grant III program, and she was a 2010 W.R. McNeill Teacher of the Year nominee.

ASHLEY FORREST

This is the 10th year Ashley Forrest has served as band teacher for Thomas Jefferson Middle, where she began her career. Forrest earned bachelor's and master's degrees, as well as Rank 1 certification, at the University of Louisville. She serves as a Kentucky Teacher Internship Program (KTIP)

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mentor, as a member of her school's SBDM council and as chair of the Arts and Humanities Department. She and her students have consistently earned distinguished and proficient ratings at Kentucky Music Educators Association District Concert Band and Solo Ensemble festivals each year for the past decade. Her professional affiliations include the 12th District of the Kentucky Music Educators Association, for which she has served as instrumental chair, secretary/treasurer and is currently president; the Delta Omicron National Music Fraternity; and the Music Educators National Conference.

This is the 10th year Ashland Inc. and the Kentucky Department of Education have co-sponsored the Kentucky Teacher Achievement Awards. Applications for the program were distributed across the state, and the first tier of the selection process was completed in August, with 24 teachers selected as 2011 Ashland Inc. Teacher Achievement Award winners. Nine top scorers – three each from the elementary, middle and high school levels – were selected, and teams of educators visited their classrooms to view them at work and to conduct personal interviews. From those nine, three were selected as 2011 Kentucky Teachers of the Year. The selection of the overall Kentucky Teacher of the Year was based on a compilation of scores from all phases of judging.

Ashland Inc. has recognized outstanding teachers through its Teacher Achievement Awards Program since 1988. Since that time, more than \$600,000 has been awarded to nearly 400 teachers in grades K through 12.

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